



Ms Katherine Economides  
Senior Executive Officer (SA/NT)  
Royal Australia College of Physicians  
By Email: RACPSA@racp.edu.au

06/03/2026

Dear Ms Economides,

Thank you for your email and supporting document on behalf of the Royal Australian College of Physicians (RCAP) outlining election commitments for 2026. As the Shadow Treasurer, I am writing on behalf of my colleagues in the South Australian Liberal Party.

The Liberal Party agrees with your position that there is urgent need to address shortcomings in healthcare, in particular a sustainable physician workforce to meet rising healthcare needs and ensuring that all South Australians have access to high quality healthcare.

That is why healthcare is a core focus for the Liberal Party in the upcoming March 2026 election. The three focus areas include building a better health system, stronger and safer communities and making South Australia more affordable.

In regard to building a better health system, we have already made the following commitments:

- **Building a better health workforce.** An incoming Hurn Liberal Government will address the shortfall in frontline health workers by attracting interstate and overseas GP's with a \$40,000 incentive to move to South Australia. We will offer retention and re-attraction bonuses to attract midwives to re-join and stay in the workforce. We will also offer up to \$15,000 toward relocation expenses for high-quality GP's to move to South Australia. Eligible nurses and midwives will also receive up to \$30,000 to support training.
- **Guaranteeing the future of the women's and children's hospital as a health precinct.** This will retain at least 300 beds in the system.
- **Making it cheaper to see your GP.** We have committed to abolishing the GP payroll tax, taking cost pressure off medical practitioners and therefore the community.
- **Making it easier to see a GP.** We will fund after-hours access trial with grants up to \$150,000 per practice to provide care outside normal hours.
- **Free flu vaccine blitz.** Providing a free flu vaccination to any South Australian who wants one during a vaccination blitz at the start of each flu season.





- **Establishing five transition care centres.** Roll out of 250 beds across five transition care centres, for people who still need care, but not hospitalisation. This will take some strain off the overworked hospital system.
- **Addressing the shortfall in regional healthcare.** We will build a new hospital in the Barossa, refurbish the emergency department at Clare hospital and secure radiotherapy on the Limestone Coast.

It is unacceptable that medical workers, including those working in casualty and paramedic services should be subject to harassment while carrying out their work. We are committing to tackling crime, with recruitment incentives and support services for SA Police and strengthening bail laws for offenders.

Finally, an incoming Hurn Liberal government will take genuine measures to address the cost-of-living pressures, that will ensure people are more able to commit to and pay for medical care when needed. We understand that some people are deferring medical care due to cost pressures, which then leads to more demanding and expensive problems later.

The Liberal Party is committed to addressing the shortfall in service that is hurting the health system at present, including physicians. We regard the above commitments as urgently needed, but only the starting point. There is a great deal of merit in the additional initiatives you mention, including collaborative models of care, and we recognise that there is a lot of work still to do.

We are ready and willing to work with your organisation if we are to form Government to address the issues you raise, and to ensure the viability and effectiveness of your members and the health sector as a whole.

Should you wish to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact our office at [benhood.office@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:benhood.office@parliament.sa.gov.au).

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BH'.

**Hon. Ben Hood MLC**

Shadow Treasurer

Shadow Minister for Small and Family Business

Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector

